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V CORPS SIGNAL BATTALION CASES COLORS FOR RETURN DEPLOYMENT TO IRAQ

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KITZINGEN, Germany — In a solemn early-afternoon ceremony, the 17th Signal Battalion of V Corps' 22nd Signal Brigade, cased its colors December 17, symbolizing its departure from its home station here and a return to duty in Iraq.



COURTESY 22ND SIGNAL BRIGADE
17th Signal Battalion commander Lt. Col. Glenn A. Kennedy (center) and 17th Signal Battalion command sergeant major Paul J. Grigsby (right) case the 17th signal Battalion Colors, signifying the 17th's departure from its home in Kitzingen and return to Iraq.

As soon as the 17th returned home from the first iteration of Operation Iraqi Freedom, its Soldiers began preparing for their eventual return, participating in live-fire and convoy exercises, signal team certifications, and supporting a corps-level field exercise, said Lt. Col. Glenn A. Kennedy, the 17th's commander.

Col Fredrick A. Cross, the 22nd Signal Brigade commander, told the assembled Soldiers and family members that the colors they were about to case were part of what defined them. "These colors represent the many times that Soldiers from the 17th Signal Battalion have trained in the wind and rain, in the snow, and the heat of the desert," said Cross.

"These Soldiers represent you. They represent the Soldiers who put on their uniform every day and reaffirm their commitment to our nation. You have what it takes, and I am confident that you will be able to get the job done," he continued.

The first time the 17th deployed to Iraq, the battalion faced an entirely new class of signal equipment – the Promina. Army signal Soldiers were entirely untrained on the new equipment, to the extent that "Soldiers were reading instruction manuals as they crossed the berm [into Iraq]," according to Maj. Gen. Janet A. Hicks, commander of the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, Ga.

Though the 17th's Soldiers were still able to accomplish their mission that time, this deployment finds the battalion's soldiers immeasurably more prepared, said Kennedy. In addition to its recent training, the 17th was also bolstered by the presence of a new unit – the 578th Signal Company. "I would personally like to welcome 578th Signal Company to our team. We're glad to have you here," said Kennedy.

That word – team – seemed to sum up the battalion's confidence in working together as it prepared to leave home for another mission.

"We will leave as a team and come back as a team. You will be able to depend on each other, your training, and your individual discipline. You have what it takes, and I am confident that you will be able to get the job done," said Kennedy.

